

# Who we are

Mark Rusling  
Director of Learning

National Holocaust  
Centre and Museum



# Why we are here

## Anti-Jewish Racism

- A 2000-year hatred
- The foundation for all racist thinking
- The motive for 6 million Jewish murders
- An ongoing problem in the UK today
- Why not 'antisemitism'?

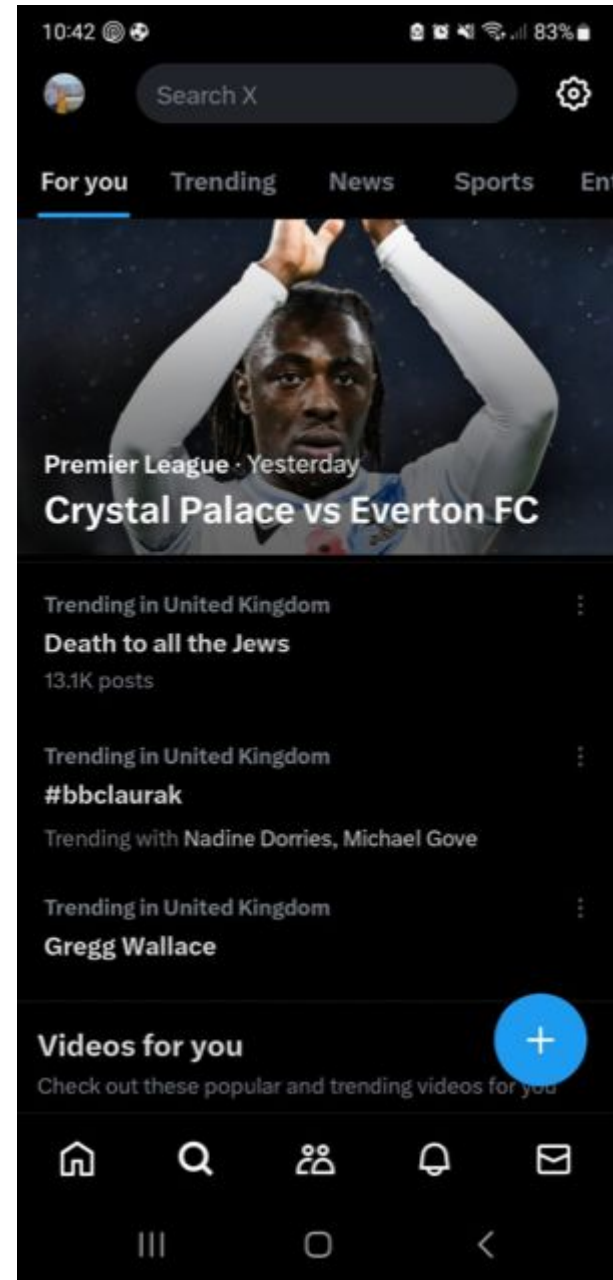
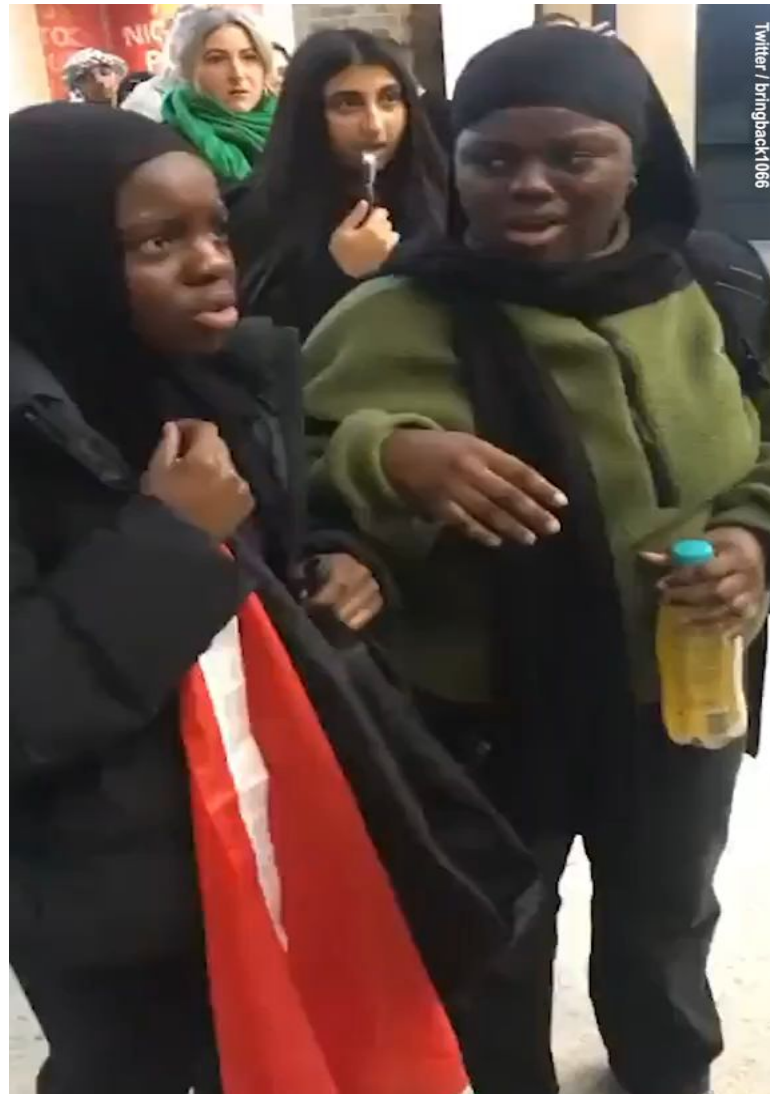
# Words become weapons...



Chapter 1 of the Holocaust:  
Germany 9 Nov 1938

# Far away, long ago?

London  
November  
2023



elections in

**Germany. Nearly** **Education** **Anti-Jewish hate:**

**A cure? Or a cause?**  
two-thirds of

university students  
vote Nazi – double  
the proportion of  
non-graduates.

**1942.** Wannsee  
Conference plans  
the murder of all  
European Jews. Of  
15 participants,



Like most other racisms, it involves **punching down**: *Jews are portrayed as inferior, dirty, subhuman, rats.*

Unlike most other racisms, it ALSO involves **punching**

**up**: *Jews are*



# UK ANTI-JEWISH INCIDENTS

Source: UoN survey

# UK ANTI-JEWISH BELIEFS

Othering - Prejudices -  
Conspiracy theories

**Over 20% UK citizens agreed:**  
*“Jews deliberately disguise their identities”; “Jews control the media”; “Jews are driven by profit”; “Jews are always more loyal to Israel”*

**Over 50% believe in at least one conspiracy theory.**

**Best predictor for subscribing to an anti-Jewish conspiracy theory:**  
Already believing in another one.

Source: UoN survey

# Cracking the Code

## Punching down: Dog whistles of the Right



**9/11** = anniversary of Nazi November Pogrom AND conspiracy theory that Jews blew up Twin Towers

**88** = (numbers of alphabet): Heil Hitler

**18** = Adolf Hitler

**14** = The 14 Words: David Lane “We must secure the existence of our people and a future for white children”

**9%** = Projected percentage of the world’s “white” population by 2060

**6 Words** = Never Date Outside of Your Race

**28** = Blood & Honour

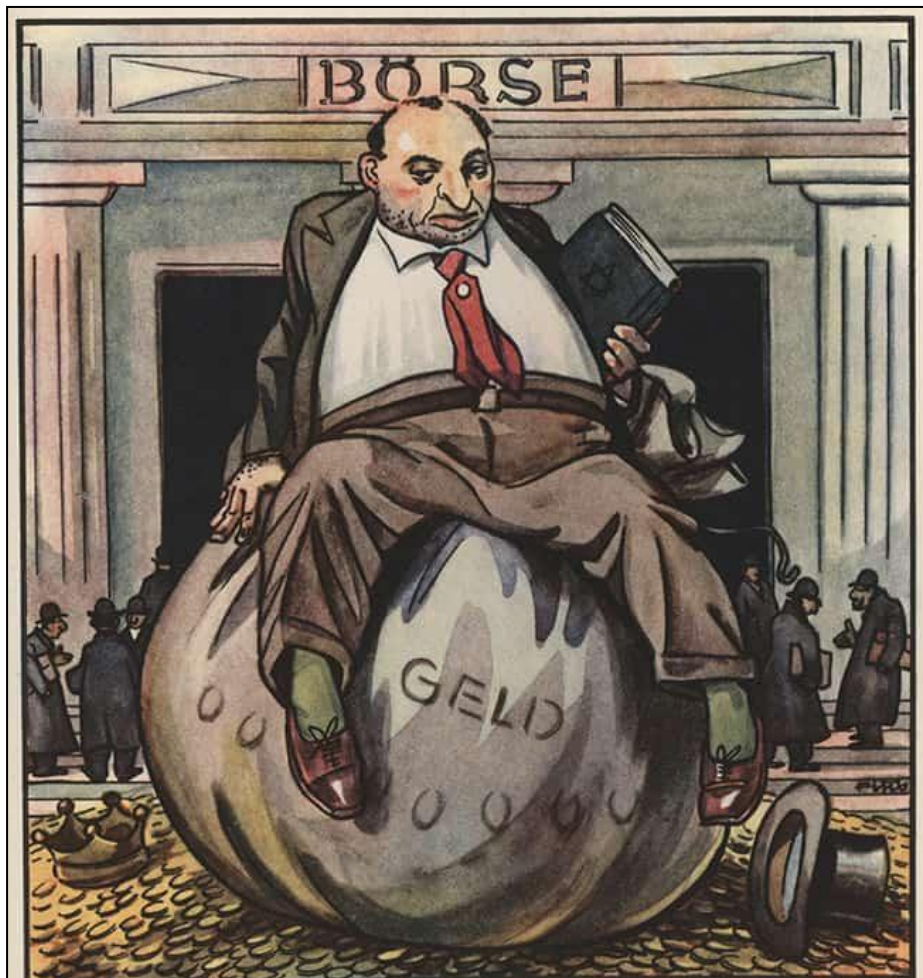


# Punching up

## Anti-Jewish racism and the Left



# Old tropes: money



„Der Gott des Juden ist das Geld. Und um Geld zu verdienen, begeht er die größten Verbrechen. Er ruht nicht eher, bis er auf einem großen Geldsack sitzen kann, bis er zum König des Geldes geworden ist.“



# Scenario 1

A group of parents are going to a 'Freedom for Palestine' demonstration. The poster advertising the demonstration states "Victory to the resistance". Kerry wears a keffiyeh [Palestinian scarf]. All the friends are chanting "Free Palestine". During the demonstration, a man walks by wearing a kippah [Jewish skullcap]. Jennifer turns and shouts "Free Palestine" at him. The chanting changes to "From the river to the sea, Palestine will be free". Rosie joins in. When they bring their children to school on Monday, the group of friends print out 100 posters with the Palestinian flag and the slogan 'Free Palestine'. They stick them to the front of the school.

Could any of this be problematic?

# Scenario 2

You are outside the school and overhear a group of parents discussing politics:

- Beth: “All politicians are corrupt – they’re just in it for the money.”
- Sam: “Yeah, but it’s not them – it’s who they work for. They can’t do anything without being told what to do by the media and the banks.”
- Nicola: “And who do the media and banks work for? Who tells them what to do? The same people who start all the wars, just like Britain used to do – slave trade, colonies, all of that stuff.”
- Beth: “I’m not sure you can say that, Nicola.”
- Nicola: “Yeah you can – you’ve got a load of white people killing a load of black people, so you can say what you want. And anyway, everyone knows that the Jews are the smartest people. They’re all properly driven – that’s why they’re so successful.”

Are any of the parents saying something potentially problematic?